

CHAS-207

MANSION HALL

circa 1700; circa 1830

Private

In recent years Charles County has lost several of its most important architectural landmarks. Mansion Hall is one that, although now gone, fortunately had several of its significant features recorded before they were lost forever.

A small one and one-half story frame structure with two chimneys at each end, Mansion Hall, like many others of this type, was actually much older than it appeared.

Initially built in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century as a one-room dwelling, Mansion Hall had several rather remarkable features, including large ceiling beams with their lower edges cut on the sides and bottoms in a double ogee pattern. A similar profile was repeated on a corner stair which had a square post terminating in a knob-like finial, a molded rail and slat balusters. Dr. H. Chandlee Forman has illustrated this stair in several of his publications, referring to it as "the first Jacobean stair found in Maryland."

In about 1830 the house was extensively enlarged, reflecting the increasing economic prosperity of the Gray family, owners of Mansion Hall from the early eighteenth century until 1882.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-207

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY PAGE #0902075104

1 NAME

HISTORIC

MANSION HALL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ironsides Riverside Road (MD 425)

CITY, TOWN

☒ VICINITY OF Ironsides

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER ABD.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Glatfelter Pulpwood Co.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 868

CITY, TOWN

Fredericksburg

☐ VICINITY OF

Virginia

STATE, zip code

22401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☒ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Since Mansion Hall is today a total ruin, most of the information on which this description is based was derived from physical and historical data published by Dr. H. Chandlee Forman in three of his books on early Maryland architectural (see Bibliography), as well as what fragments of the building have survived for recording.

Measuring 28' square, Mansion Hall was of frame construction, one and one-half stories beneath a dormered gable roof. At each end of the house stood two brick chimneys.

Facing south, the front elevation was three bays wide. The entrance door occupied the off-centered middle bay and the windows framed sash of 6-over-9 panes. Across the front was a shed-roofed porch and on the front roof slope two pedimented dormers. The rear, north elevation, also three bays wide, had windows of 4-over-2 pane sash and two pedimented dormers on the roof. There was no porch on this elevation. At the east end were two brick chimneys with stepped weatherings and free-standing stacks. To the left of the southeast chimney was a door that presumably once led to a detached kitchen. To the right of the same chimney was a window. A second smaller window was centered in the roof gable. On the west end were two additional chimneys, the larger southwest chimney with brick tiled weatherings and its companion with stepped weatherings. Both had free-standing stacks. Flush to the right of the stack of the smaller chimney was a narrow two-pane window. Centered in the gable was a second window of 4-over-2 panes.

Mansion Hall was initially built as a one-room plus attic house measuring 17' wide by 18' deep. Certain architectural features of the original house indicate that it might have been built as early as the late-seventeenth or early eighteenth century. In about 1830 the house was enlarged by extending it at the east end by about 11' and adding two small rooms across the back, the last giving its roof a "salt box" profile. The two east and one northwest end chimneys, the dormers and the front porch are all contemporary with the c. 1830 alteration. It was also at this time that the entire house was sheathed with flush beaded boards.

It is the original interior woodwork of the oldest part of the house that establishes the significance of Mansion Hall as one of Charles County's most important pre-1750 buildings.

Although by any standards a modest structure, the original Mansion Hall was probably fairly representative of the types
 (continued on attached sheet)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1700; c. 1830 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In recent years Charles County has lost several of its most important architectural landmarks. Mansion Hall is one that, although now gone, fortunately had several of its significant features recorded before they were lost forever.

A small one and one-half story frame structure with two chimneys at each end, Mansion Hall, like many others of this type, was actually much older than it appeared.

Initially built in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century as a one-room dwelling, Mansion Hall had several rather remarkable features, including large ceiling beams with their lower edges cut on the sides and bottoms in a double ogee pattern. A similar profile was repeated on a corner stair which had a square post terminating in a knob-like finial, a molded rail and slat balusters. Dr. H. Chandler Forman has illustrated this stair in several of his publications, referring to it as "the first Jacobean stair found in Maryland."

In about 1830 the house was extensively enlarged, reflecting the increasing economic prosperity of the Gray family, owners of Mansion Hall from the early eighteenth century until 1882.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Mansion Hall is located on a large tract of unspecified acreage identified as parcel 6, Map 52 of the Charles County Tax Map (revised Jan. 1976).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

January 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation of #7 (Description)--MANSION HALL

Page 2

of small utilitarian dwellings lived in by a vast majority of the region's early colonists. However, the builder of Mansion Hall went to great length to improve the interior of the house to the end result that Mansion Hall was a rather extraordinary example of this otherwise simple and very basic house type. Some of these details, later covered by the c. 1830 alterations, escaped the attention of Dr. Forman and are not mentioned in his various discussions of the house. When the house collapsed, these features were revealed and are recorded here.

Because of the extensive alterations and later deterioration that occurred, little is known about the original exterior appearance of the house other than its dimensions and the existence of a west end chimney. It is probable that the door and window closest to the west end of the south front occupied original locations, as well as a door on the rear wall which later became an interior door. A door at the east end opening into the later southeast room was probably originally a window. It is likely that there were no dormers on the roof and that the exterior walls and roof were sheathed with riven clapboards.

On the interior the house had wide pine floorboards and brick nogged walls covered with lath and plaster. The baseboards had a narrow ogee molding on their upper edge. The same narrow ogee profile was used as an applied molding on the narrow window and door surrounds. On all four walls was a 3 1/2" one-piece chairrail, beaded on its top and bottom edge.

Two of the most interesting details are the treatment of the exposed ceiling beams and a short length of balustrade at the base of a corner stair. All of the ceiling beams (4" by 7") had their lower edges molded on the sides and bottoms in a shallow ogee profile, resulting in a very distinctive decorative effect. The stair, which Dr. Forman refers to as "the first Jacobean stair found in Maryland," was largely enclosed within a board sheathed closet located in the northwest corner of the first floor room. Its bottom three treads were, however, exposed and had a balustrade composed of a square post beaded on all four edges and terminating in a knob-like finial, an elaborately shaped rail in a double-ogee profile, and slat balusters cut in a similar pattern. Unfortunately, there is no information available as to the treatment of the fireplace surround or the attic chamber.

#9 (Major Bibliographical References)--MANSION HALL

Forman, H. Chandlee. Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers. 1967. Pp. 219-221, 304; Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. New York: Bonanza Books. 1956. Pp. 26, 28; Maryland Architecture. Tidewater Publishers. 1968. Pp. 15, 51; The Architecture of the Old South. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 1948. Pp. 127, 131.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

THE MUSTACE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

MD

CODE

COUNTY:

Charles

COOE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

COOE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Charles Co.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

COOE

LaPlata

Md.

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal ☐State ☐County ☐Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

COOE

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The floor plan of this house, as described by H.C.F., is very unusual for this region.

A one story frame house, it was extended at one end by a 19th c. addition. In its present form it is three "bays" in length at both front and rear elevations with two chimneys at each end. The 19th c. chimney has a $\frac{1}{2}$ pent and door between the two bays.

The first floor plan of the orig. house involved a Great Room with a stair hall at one end and two cell rooms extending the length of the rear of the house. The 19th c. addition consisted of 2 rooms of equal size at one end. It is possible that changes in the original plan were made when the addition was built.

SITE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☒20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Architecture ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <i>Riviera</i>		
ORGANIZATION <i>MHR</i>	DATE <i>2/72</i>	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



CHAS-207

— MANSION HALL SITE; View From
S.E. J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-207

— MANSION HALL; Joist Ends. —

J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-207

— MANSION HALL SITE; Dormer —

Front. J.R.Rivoire, 1978